

Claims

1. A method of darkening the skin, said method
5 comprising applying to said skin a polymer comprising
monomers selected from the group consisting of vanillin
monomers, o-vanillin monomers, and mixtures thereof.

2. A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer
10 further comprises monomers selected from the group
consisting of 3-aminotyrosine, dihydroxy acetone, 3,4-
dihydroxybenzoic acid, 3-amino,4-hydroxybenzoic acid,
emodin, alizarin, tyrosine, 4,5-dihydroxynaphthalene-2-
sulfonic acid, 3-nitrotyrosine, 3-dimethylamino phenol, p-
15 aminobenzoic acid, and mixtures thereof.

3. A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer
further comprises aloin monomers.

4. A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer
20 further comprises dihydroxyphenylalanine monomers.

5. A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer
further comprises aloin monomers and
25 dihydroxyphenylalanine monomers.

6. A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer
further comprises a moiety selected from the group
consisting of linoleic acid, 9,10-dihydroxystearic acid,
30 linolenic acid, cholesterol, dihydroxycarbazole, and
mixtures thereof.

7. A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

5 8. A method of claim 2, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

9. A method of claim 3, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

10 10. A method of claim 5, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

15 11. A polymer comprising (i) monomers selected from the group consisting of vanillin monomers, o-vanillin monomers, and mixtures thereof and (ii) monomers selected from the group consisting of 3-aminotyrosine, dihydroxy acetone, 3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid, 3-amino,4-hydroxybenzoic acid, aloin, emodin, alizarin, tyrosine, 20 dihydroxyphenylalanine, 4,5-dihydroxynaphthalene-2-sulfonic acid, 3-nitrotyrosine, 3-dimethylamino phenol, p-aminobenzoic acid, and mixtures thereof.

25 12. A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer comprises aloin monomers.

13. A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer comprises dihydroxyphenylalanine monomers.

14. A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer comprises aloin monomers and dihydroxyphenylalanine monomers.

5 15. A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer further comprises a moiety selected from the group consisting of linoleic acid, 9,10-dihydroxystearic acid, linolenic acid, cholesterol, dihydroxycarbazole, and mixtures thereof.

10 16. A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

15 17. A polymer of claim 12, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

18. A polymer of claim 14, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

20 19. A composition comprising a polymer of claim 11 and cosmetically-acceptable topical carrier.

25 20. A method of darkening the skin, said method comprising applying to said skin a composition of claim 19.